

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congressman Joe Courtney today released the following statement after the United States Supreme Court voted to uphold the Affordable Care Act:

“Today’s ruling is a landmark moment in the fight for stable, secure health coverage for all Americans. Congress debated, the Supreme Court decided, and now the implementation of the Affordable Care Act can move forward.

“As with any law, the Affordable Care Act is not the final word on health care. This Congress and future Congresses can make commonsense amendments in response to real-life problems. For example, we already repealed the onerous 1099 filing requirement last year, and extended age 26 coverage to military families after ACA’s enactment. I look forward to actively promoting that smart, positive effort.

“In eastern Connecticut last year, 4,600 young people were able to remain on their parents’ health policy until the age of 26 while they transitioned into the workforce. That benefit is protected permanently.

“7,700 seniors in our district received more than \$5 million in prescription drug discounts in 2011. That number will grow as the Affordable Care Act closes the Medicare Part D donut hole entirely. 88,000 seniors have taken advantage of preventive care benefits, including cancer and cardiovascular screenings without a co-pay, coinsurance, or deductible.”

“Already, 470 small businesses have received tax credits to provide health insurance for their employees.”

“If you become gravely ill, battling a costly condition like hemophilia, there are no longer lifetime caps on benefits. And beginning in 2014, if you lose your job, you will not lose your health coverage.”

Eastern Connecticut residents are already enjoying benefits of the Affordable Care Act. By

2014, the law will be fully implemented. Here is what the law has already done and will do by next year:

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- In 2011, 4,600 young people were able to remain on their parent's health policy until the age of 26;
- 7,700 seniors received \$5 million in prescription drug discounts in 2011 – numbers that will grow until the Medicare Part D donut hole is closed entirely;
- 88,000 eastern Connecticut seniors received Medicare preventive services without paying co-pays, coinsurance or deductibles;
- At least 39,000 children now have health insurance that covers preventive services without paying co-pays, coinsurance or deductibles;
- In 2011, 470 small businesses in the district received tax credits to maintain or expand health care coverage for their employees;
- By 2014, ALL of eastern Connecticut's residents with pre-existing conditions will be protected, and health insurers will not be able to deny them coverage;
- By 2014, the district's 570,000 residents with private insurance coverage will no longer face annual limits on coverage.

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